Programmes under new Agriculture Policy for NE

3800. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the new programmes to be taken up under the new Agricultural Policy for the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether any programme is proposed to be taken up for exporting horticulture products to foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not initiating new programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The recently announced National Agriculture Policy docs not specify new programmes for the North-Eastem States, or for other regions. However, a new scheme on "Technology Mission for the Integrated Development fo Horticulture in the North-East States including Sikkim" has been approved for implementation during the year 2001-02. This Technology Mission, which is to be launched shortly, will have four Mini-Missions *viz*. (i) Mini-Mission-I for Research; (ii) Mini-Mission-II for Production and Productivity; (iii) Mini-Mission-III for Post-Harvest Management, Marketing and Export; and (iv) Mini-Mission IV for Processing.

Foreign experts for rescue operations In Gujarat

3801. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign experts were called for rescue operations for earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a lot of time of foreign experts was wasted as they first reached Delhi, then Ahmedabad and thereafter at Bhuj, due to lack of direction from Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?